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May 8th: 9am-11am
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7406 27th St. W.,
Suite 207
University Place, WA



Representative
Troy Kelley
28th District



Troy Kelley 2008 Session Report

Making our community safer

All of us deserve to feel safe in our homes and communities.

✔ Better tracking laws for sex offenders

As a father of two young boys, I share the concerns of my neighbors and have made public safety a real priority. That's why I worked to list Level I sex offenders on the state notification website should they fail to comply with registration guidelines (HB 2786).

In addition, we need to make sure that offenders serving time are unable to harass people in the community. This is why I introduced House Bill 2756, to log the phone calls from the Special Commitment Center at McNeil Island. This log would punish any prisoner violating contact restrictions.

✔ Identity theft: taking a regional approach

This year we created threat alert networks and one of them will cover King and Pierce counties. The task forces will meet to discuss crimes they're seeing, then bring in additional officers or prosecutors to go after these thieves – regardless of where they live.

✔ Saving 100 lives each year through DUI reform

Estimates show that legislation we passed this year, allowing for ignition interlock devices to prevent repeat drunk drivers from endangering the public, will cut drunk driving-related fatalities on our roads by 100 a year.

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Dear Neighbors,

It has been a pleasure to serve you in Olympia. I have worked in a bipartisan way to improve our local and regional economy – investing in priorities and preparing for the current economic downturn.

I'll talk more about my main priorities: small business, veterans and military members, and public safety in this newsletter, but the Legislature achieved some notable accomplishments this past session that I want to highlight.

We're leaving this year with \$850 million in budget reserves – including funding the voter approved Rainy Day Fund, a constitutionally protected state savings account only to be used in an emergency. We've also focused on education, assisting students with tough testing requirements and expanding all-day kindergarten.

Again, thank you for allowing me to represent you and your neighbors in Olympia.

I look forward to talking with you soon,

Troy Kelley

Troy Kelley 2008 Session Report

Improving the small business environment

As a small business owner, I know that small businesses are the leading employers in our region and they are the engine that reignites the economy in tough times. I formed the Small Business Caucus in the Legislature to work with local business owners from around the state to find legislative solutions to common problems such as high start-up costs and taxes that deter new business growth. I sponsored House Bill 3165 to provide a B&O tax exemption for new small businesses. I'll continue to fight for policies like this to help jump start small business.

Streamlining the tax process and new tax credits

We passed legislation, HB 3126, that will streamline sales tax collection and accounting for businesses operating in more than one jurisdiction, saving time and money.

Saving energy and money

Advances in highly efficient appliances have made it possible for businesses to save money on energy costs. I was able to pass HB 3362 which will provide tax incentives to enable businesses to purchase this new technology.



Support for our veterans and military members



Our district is home to thousands of active duty and retired military personnel. As a member of the Army Reserves, my family and I understand the sacrifice and day-to-day concerns of military families across the region. So it's important to me that the state does its part in helping military families in their communities and in the workplace.

Improving military communities

This session I pushed legislation to designate communities around military installments as special improvement zones. Doing this would open them up for state and private investments and spur local economic development. This year I was able to secure \$500,000 in infrastructure improvements for the Tillicum neighborhood — basics like sewer and sidewalk improvements that will foster commercial development, pedestrian safety, and other improvements.

Protecting veterans from discrimination

All of us hear the stories: military personnel returning from active duty to find their jobs gone, and employers hesitant to re-hire, fearing future deployment. This is no way to treat the people who are sacrificing so much to protect us. To make sure they get the respect they deserve, we made veteran or military status a protected class in our state's anti-discrimination laws.

Start-up funding for veteran-owned businesses

The state currently offers low-interest loans to certain groups to encourage small business start up. This year I led the effort to expand this program to veterans—a \$15 million dollar investment (HB 3360). These loans will help the businesses of military members get established in our communities and will be a benefit to us all.



Housing security and the mortgage crisis

Every family deserves a place to call home at night, and homeowners shouldn't have their dream jeopardized by predatory mortgage loans. Our housing situation is in trouble nationally and this year we worked to bolster housing security in our state.

Helping families get into homes—and stay there

For many people, purchasing a home is a complicated process. With the help of the Senate, we passed legislation I formulated directing the state to develop education materials regarding the process of buying a home. This program is operating now under the Dept. of Financial Institutions and if you need help, call 1-877-894-HOME. This bill will have two programs: one will address fiscal literacy and the second will offer counseling and outreach about home ownership to people looking to buy a home or help to stay in a current home.

Making the mortgage process better for consumers

Some mortgage products offered to homebuyers have caused real harm to our communities. We passed a subprime lending reform bill to require better disclosure of loan terms to avoid surprises for homeowners and to eliminate certain products, like loans where the balance owed on a home increases. We also passed a version of my proposal to bring 300 unlicensed businesses currently offering loans, under state regulation.

Property taxes

In a special session last November, I voted to reinstate the 1 percent property tax cap approved by voters.

This year, I urged colleagues to approve a relief bill that would have provided a \$50,000 homestead exemption when calculating your property taxes – providing relief to lower income and middle income families and individuals.

